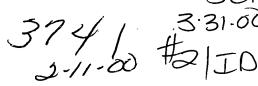


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REGISTERED TO PRACTICE BEFORE U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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December 23, 1999

Serial Number: 09/459,735 Filed: December 13, 1999 Applicant: Elsa Dumplet

Title: Multipositional Apparatus for Hanging Things

Group Art Unit: Not yet notified

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Attached is a completed Form PTO-1449 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon. Below are comments on these references pursuant to Rule 98:

U.S. Patent No. 5,642,841 to Beaty discloses an apparatus and method for hanging a plurality of both belts and ties with plural rows and columns on a rectangular block and a curved metal hanger hook projecting upwardly from the top.

U.S. Patent No. 5,282,553 to Ibled discloses a shoe holder comprising a central rod terminated by a hook for suspension and two lateral support elements on which the shoes are fitted.

U.S. Patent No. 4,863,043 to Bowen discloses a support in a closet including a rack and a multiplicity of arms on each side of the rack for storage of neckties, belts, or other apparel.

U.S. Patent No. 4,709,838 to Campbell discloses an apparatus

>, .

for hanging articles of clothing or the like comprising an elongated vertically extending article hanging means having a plurality of vertically spaced oppositely facing hook portions.

U.S. Patent No. 4,034,865 to Batts et al. discloses a segmental articulated display arrangement for hook suspended article display devices comprising a plurality of links interconnected in a tandem fashion.

None of these patents disclose a multipositional apparatus for hanging articles such as ties, belts, shoes, bras, hats, etc. including a flexible main body comprising a series of intertwined rigid links including a first end link, a series of intermediate links and a second end link, as well as a plurality of common metal hooks that project from the links, including at least several intermediate hooks that project perpendicularly from a segment of the series of intermediate links and including an end hook projecting from the first end link and wherein the hooks, having a straight portion and a curved portion, the curved portion being shaped so as to receive articles or to be hung on a projecting member, and the straight portion of the end hook aligned collinearly with the axis of the nearest segment of the series of intermediate links.

Respectfully,

Steven Horowitz, Reg. No. 31,768

Enclosures

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

hereby certify that on December 23, 1999, I placed the following documents in connection with patent application no. 09/459,735 for Multipositional Apparatus for Hanging Things: (i) 2 pages of Information Disclosure Statement (ii) form PTO-1449 (iii) copies of prior art references (iv) Certificate of Express Mailing (v) Acknowledgment postcard

in an Express Mail Post Office to Addressee envelope addressed to:

Commissioner of Patent & Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

and deposited it with the United States Postal Service Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service and obtained the following tracing number: EJ706159664US. I also paid the required postage for same.

Steven Horowitz

Registration No. 31,768

Dated: December 23, 1999